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July 16, 1965

Dr. Robert F. Thorne
Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden
1500 North College Avenue
Claremont, California

Dear Dr. Thorne:

We were very pleased to hear that you are willing to help us by identifying plant specimens sent in by our subscribers. Dr. Carlquist has no doubt told you that some of them are very inadequate, but we are trying to encourage the readers to send in ample specimens, with blossom or fruit. Occasionally we might send you a leaf specimen, in the hope that you might be able to identify it. Don't waste a lot of time on these, however, as we understand that is a sort of a hopeless task.

The enclosed is from a subscriber in San Dimas, who writes: "Do you know anything about a thornless rose bush? A friend of mine in this city has a large bush raised and given him by a friend, who had not detected it as thornless. Every stem and stalk is as smooth as would be a bush by any other name. What is the name and can it be propagated by slips? It blooms freely, creamy yellow, and fragrant."

We realize that with the hundreds of new rose varieties being developed every year, it would be practically impossible to identify a rose specimen exactly. However, you probably know if there is a true thornless rose. We have never heard of one.

Thank you for any help you can give on this. A stamped return envelope is enclosed for your convenience in replying.

Sincerely,

CALIFORNIA FARMER

By Marjorie McAlinden
Marjorie McAlinden

MM:sc
Enc.